GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:352
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a study conducted by a charitable Organisation in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and now in Chennai on sexual abuse of school children suggesting that India might have the highest child sexual abuse (CSA) rate as published in the Hindu dated July 4, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to undertake a survey to gauge the extent and magnitude of sexual exploitation of children in the country;

(d) if so, whether no comprehensive law on CSA prevails in India;

(e) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to bring such a legislation; and

(f) other measures taken/to be taken by the Government to tackle the problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a)&(b) A news appeared in Delhi Edition of The Hindu on 4th July 2005 stating that a study on sexual abuse of school children in Chennai was being undertaken by Tulir, a charitable organization with a grant from Save the Children, Sweden. Any act committed for sexual gratification by an older or powerful person vis-Ã -vis a child is considered as 'child sexual abuse'. It was stated further that studies in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata suggested prevalence rates between 46 and 71 percent, suggesting India might have the highest child sexual abuse rate in the world. The results of the study being conducted in Chennai are expected to throw some light on the issue in the region and help create awareness and to design effective prevention strategy.

(c) The Department of Women and Child Development has taken the initiative to conduct a national level study o n child abuse, including sexual abuse, in 15 States through non- Government organizations.

(d) Child sexual abuse is being currently covered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA).

(e) The Department of Women and Child Development is in the process of preparing draft legislation on Offences against Children.

(f) Apart from preparing draft legislation on offences against children the following are the government interventions to address the issue pertaining to child sexual abuse:

(i) Existing legislations of IPC and ITPA partly cover the child sexual abuse like rape, trafficking for prostitution etc.

(ii) The Government is implementing a Plan of Action for combating trafficking in women and children.

(iii)A Central Advisory Committee for combating trafficking in women and children also advise government on the issue.

(iv) Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Bill 2005 has been introduced recently in the Parliament to establish a National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to deal with all issues pertaining to children.

(v) A National Plan of Action for Children has been finalized which include strategies to be undertaken for achieving objectives to improve the situation of children in the country.